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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

SURVEY OF FOODS PURCHASED FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

The National School Lunch Program has, over the 10 years of its operation under the National School Lunch Act, grown to stature as an important factor in agricultural marketing. To gain more information about the market made by the program, the Food Distribution Division is conducting a series of studies of food expenditures by schools.

The several studies, when all are completed, will be brought together in booklet form to present the information to all who are interested. However, copies of the studies are being presented, as each is completed, in this preliminary form for review by persons particularly interested in them.

The attached report is one of these preliminary copies.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

SURVEY OF FOOD PURCHASES FOR 59 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN SCHOOLS

This report is one of a series of studies to ascertain the kinds and dollar values of foods purchased from local merchants by schools in connection with the service of school lunches. The data presented here cover the food purchases made for 59 schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. These foods were used in the preparation of over one and a half million lunches for 48,000 students in 39 elementary and 20 junior and senior high schools. Centralized purchasing was practiced to a large degree although some of the foods not carried in the central stocks were purchased directly by the schools from wholesalers. Perishable foods, such as dairy products, fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread, although centrally purchased, were delivered directly to the schools.

Summary

Foods* purchased for the preparation of an estimated 1,660,000 meals for students at 59 Milwaukee schools cost $490,000. The schools had an average daily attendance of 47,800 students with about one-fourth of the enrollment participating in the lunch program. It was reported that a daily average of 9,300 students bought lunches at school and about 10,000-15,000 lunches were served free each month. Elementary school students paid 25 cents for their lunches while junior and senior high students paid 30 cents.

Fluid milk utilization in the schools under review totaled over 4.3 million half pints of which over 2.5 million half pints were consumed in connection with the Special Milk Program. The expenditure of almost $200,000 for milk was the largest single item making up the food purchases for the 59 schools.

Purchases of dairy products accounted for 39 percent of the total money spent by the schools for food, including ice cream and candy. Meat, fish and egg purchases represented about 20 percent while fruits, vegetables, and other staple foods took 11 percent of the food dollar. Ice cream and candy accounted for 13 percent, groceries and miscellaneous items for 11 percent, and bread, for 6 percent of all the food money spent by the schools.

Table 1 shows the purchases, by food groups, made by the schools in terms of dollar values and the relative percentage of the food dollar accounted for by each food group. The fourth column of the table shows the percentages for the food groups after the value of the ice cream and candy purchases were eliminated.

* Includes milk purchased for the Special Milk Program.

Table 1. Food Purchases Made for 59 Milwaukee, Wisconsin Schools
School Year 1955-56

Food Group	Dollar Value	Percent of Total	Dollar Value	Percent of Total
Dairy	192,831	39.4	192,831	45.3
Meat	76,933	15.7	76,933	18.1
Eggs	7,350	1.5	7,350	1.7
Bread	29,456	6.0	29,456	6.9
Cookies	7,635	1.6	7,635	1.8
Groceries including fruits and vegetables a/	88,283	18.0	88,283	20.8
Staples	15,855	3.2	15,855	3.7
Ice Cream	38,851	7.9	--	--
Candy	25,695	5.3	--	--
Miscellaneous	7,000	1.4	7,000	1.7
Total	$ 489,889	100.0	$ 425,343	100.0

a/ Includes $11,500 of canned salmon and tuna fish.

Foods donated to the schools by the U. S. Department of Agriculture through its several programs totaled over 250,000 pounds and was valued at over $85,000.

A. Fruits - Canned and Dried

This group of foods represented an expenditure of $21,650 or about 5.4 percent of the money spent by the schools for food (exclusive of candy and ice cream). Mixed fruits (fruit cocktail) was the single largest item among the canned fruits purchased accounting for 20 percent of the canned fruit dollar. This was followed closely by pears, pineapple, and peaches which represented, respectively, 15.8, 14.3, and 13.3 percent of the total expenditures for canned fruit. In Table 2 are shown the purchases of canned fruits made by the schools.

Table 2. Canned and Dried Fruits Purchased for 59 Milwaukee, Wisconsin Schools
School Year 1955-1956

Fruits, Canned & Dried	Dollar Value	Percent of Total
Apples and Applesauce	2,689.00	12.4
Apricots	2,211.00	10.2
Cherries	985.50	4.6
Mixed Fruits	4,370.50	20.2
Peaches	2,881.59	13.3
Pears	3,419.90	15.8
Pineapple	3,104.80	14.3
Plums	610.88	2.8
Dried Apricots	537.50	2.5
Dried Dates	380.50	1.7
Raisins	462.90	2.2
Total	21,654.07	100.0

B. Canned Vegetables

The schools spent $19,000 for fresh, canned and dried vegetables or about 4.8 percent of the money spent for food exclusive of ice cream and candy. Canned green and wax beans represented 22 percent and corn, 20 percent, of the vegetable dollar volume. Asparagus, peas and tomatoes accounted for 9.7, 9.6, and 8.6 percent, respectively, of the money spent for the canned and dried vegetables. No data were available for the fresh or frozen vegetable purchases which were included among the purchases reported as groceries in Table 1. Table 3 presents the data for the purchases of canned and dried vegetables during the 1955-56 school year.

Table 3. Canned and Dried Vegetables Purchases for 59 Milwaukee, Wisconsin Schools - School Year 1955-56

Vegetables	Dollar Value	Percent of Total
Asparagus	1,852.00	9.7
Beans, green & wax	4,222.10	22.1
Bean sprouts	293.80	1.5
Beans, baked	834.80	4.3
Beets	620.00	3.2
Carrots	734.20	3.8
Corn	3,834.40	20.1
Peas	1,839.30	9.6
Pimiento	347.40	1.8
Sauerkraut	601.20	3.1
Spinach	990.75	5.2
Tomatoes	1,648.50	8.6
Mixed Vegetables	688.50	3.6
Dried		
Beans, navy and kidney	347.50	1.8
Peas, split	300.00	1.6
Total	$19,154.45	100.0

C. Donated Foods

The 59 Milwaukee schools received over a quarter of a million pounds of foods valued at $85,000 through the Department's several donation programs. Nine-tenths of this amount was represented by Section 32 and Section 416 programs. Dairy and meat products made up 50 and 35 percent, respectively, of the value of the donated foods. Fresh, canned and dried fruits represented about 5 percent of the value of the foods furnished by the Department.

Table 4. Foods Donated by USDA to 59 Milwaukee Schools
School Year 1955-56

Commodity	Pounds	Dollars	Percent of Total Value
Sections 32 & 416			
Beans, dry	8,600	792	.9
Butter	44,160	28,572	33.7
Cheese	22,920	10,108	11.9
Cottonseed Oil	2,734	568	.7
Hams, canned	5,400	3,450	4.1
Hamburger	12,000	4,108	4.8
Lard	3,024	471	.6
Milk, nonfat dry	24,840	4,571	5.4
Pork and gravy	24,142	16,313	19.3
Pork lunch meat	11,232	5,041	6.0
Prunes, fresh	7,196	558	.7
Rice	5,000	606	.7
Shortening	5,004	1,035	1.2
Total Sections 32 & 416	176,252	76,193	90.0
Section 6			
Apricots, dry	3,975	1,375	1.7
Cherries, canned	9,800	1,305	1.5
Grapefruit, canned	11,464	1,368	1.6
Peas, canned	17,120	1,794	2.1
Peanut Butter	4,820	1,224	1.5
Tomatoes, canned	13,566	1,380	1.6
Total Section 6	60,745	8,446	10.0
GRAND TOTAL	236,997	84,639	100.0